



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL GREGORY S. ZEHNER



Lt Col Gregory S. Zehner is the Senior Advisor to the Iraqi Air Force base commander and 3rd Squadron commander at Kirkuk Regional Air Base (Hurriyah Base), Iraq. Operating under the Multinational Force – Iraq (MNF-I), Multi-national Security Transition Command – Iraq (MNSTC-I), Coalition Air Force Transition Team (CAFTT), he is responsible for training, advising, and assisting the Iraqi Air Force base commander and his subordinate units in all aspects of air power and air force operations. He leads a joint advisory team of personnel in operations, maintenance, and base operations support who work directly with their Iraqi counterparts in a combined effort to stand-up the Iraqi Air Force.

Lt Col Zehner is a 1988 graduate of the U. S. Air Force Academy and is a command pilot with over 2500 hours in various aircraft including the F-117A Nighthawk and A/OA-10 Thunderbolt II. He is a graduate of the Advanced Military Studies Program (AMSP), School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS), U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS and has held numerous staff positions at wing and air staff levels. At Headquarters U. S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., he was chief of the Doctrine and the Warfighter branches in the “Skunk Works,” the Strategy, Concepts and Doctrine Division for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Air and Space Operations. He served as the Air Force representative to the Joint Staff’s Strategic Planning Cell responsible for providing strategic guidance to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the conduct of the Global War on Terrorism, the Joint Urban Operations Working Group, and was the Air Force’s senior action officer member of the Joint Close Air Support Executive Steering Committee.

EDUCATION:

- 1988 Bachelor of Science Degree, USAF Academy, CO (Military History Major, German Minor)
- 1991 USAF Tactical Fighter Electronic Combat Officers’ Course, Hurlburt AFB, FL
- 1991 Distinguished Graduate, USAF Air-Ground Operations School, Hurlburt AFB, FL
- 1994 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL (Residence, Leadership Commendation)
- 1998 Masters of Arts Degree, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC (History - Modern Europe/Military)
- 2000 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL (Seminar/Correspondence)
- 2003 Army Command and General Staff Officers College, Fort Leavenworth, KS (Residence – no distinguished graduate program)
- 2004 Army Advanced Military Studies Program, School of Advanced Military Studies, Fort Leavenworth, KS (Residence– no distinguished graduate program)
- 1004 Masters of Military Arts & Science Degree, Army Advanced Military Studies Program, School of Advanced Military Studies, Fort Leavenworth, KS
- 2005 Air War College (non-resident)

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Jun 88 – Jul 88, Instructor, Texas Preparatory Program, University of Texas, San Antonio, TX
2. Aug 88 – Oct 89, Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Columbus AFB, MS
3. Oct 89 – Jan 90, Student, Lead-in Fighter Training, Holloman AFB, NM
4. Feb 90 – May 90, Student, A-10 Replacement Training Unit, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ
5. Jun 90 – Sep 91, A-10 Fighter Pilot, scheduler, safety officer, navigation officer, 509th Tactical Fighter Squadron, RAF Alconbury, UK
6. Sep 91 – May 96, Forward Air Controller, 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron; Student, OA-10 Forward Air Controller Course, 22nd Tactical Air Support Training Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ; Chief of Mobility, A/OA-10 Fighter Pilot/Battalion Air Liaison Officer, Squadron Electronic Combat Pilot 21st Fighter Squadron; Chief of Plans, A/OA-10 Fighter Pilot/Battalion Air Liaison Officer, scheduler, 55th Fighter Squadron Shaw AFB, SC
7. May 96 – Jun 97, Chief, Battalion Air Liaison Officer Office, A/OA-10 Fighter Pilot/Battalion Air Liaison Officer, scheduler, Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea
8. Jun 97 – Oct 99, Flight Commander, Chief of Training, Central Instructors School Instructor Pilot, A/OA-10 Formal Training Unit, 357th Fighter Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB AZ
9. Oct 99 – Jun 00, Deputy Chief, Wing Training, Wing Tactical Deception Officer, Central Instructors School Instructor Pilot, 355th Operational Support Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB AZ
10. Jun 00 – Jun 02, Chief of Doctrine Branch, Chief of Warfighter Branch, Action Officer, Headquarters USAF, Strategy, Concepts and Doctrine Division, Deputy Chief of Staff for Air and Space Operations, Air Staff, Pentagon, Washington, DC
11. Jun 02 – Jun 03, Student, U.S. Army Command and General Staff Officers Course, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS
12. Jun 03 – May 04, Student, Advanced Military Studies Program, School of Advanced Military Studies, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS
13. Jun 04 – Sep 06, Assistant Deputy Operations Group Commander, Fighter Wing Director of Staff, 49th Fighter Wing, Holloman AFB, NM.
14. Sep 06 – Sep 07, Senior Advisor, 3rd Squadron, Iraqi Air Force, Kirkuk Regional Air Base (Hurriyah Base), Iraq.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Air Medal with one device
Aerial Achievement Medal with three devices
Air Force Commendation Medal with two devices
Air Force Achievement Medal with one device
Army Achievement Medal

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:

1997 Outstanding Performer, Pacific Air Forces, Korea Peninsula-wide Operational Readiness Inspection
1998 Overall Individual Top Gun, Top Flight Flight-Lead, Top Squadron, 355th Wing Turkey Shoot
1999 357th Fighter Squadron Instructor Pilot of the Year
2000 Team Chief, Outstanding Team, Air Combat Command, Operational Readiness Inspection, Phase I
2001 Action Officer of the Quarter, Headquarters Air Force, Directorate of Operational Plans

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant	June 1, 1988
First Lieutenant	June 1, 1990
Captain	June 1, 1992
Major	October 1, 1999
Lieutenant Colonel	September 1, 2004